

a
an inflatable seamless body defining a multiplicity of internally disposed cells with each cell being separated from an adjacent cell by a constriction having a smaller internal cross-sectional area than said cells, said cells and constrictions forming a continuous passageway for the passage of air throughout said body;

said body further defining

a centrally disposed crown portion in the form of a ring of said cells and constrictions that is adapted to be positioned against and protect the top portion of the wearer's skull,

a rear group of said cells and constrictions extending outward from said ring and adapted to be positioned against and protect the lower portion of the wearer's skull,

a pair of side groups of said [cell] cells and constrictions extending outward from opposite sides of said ring and adapted to be positioned against and protect the [side] sides of the wearer's skull, and

a front group of said cells and constrictions extending out from said ring and adapted to be positioned against and protect the top front portion of the wearer's skull, said body having a first side that is substantially flat thereby facilitating the positioning of [the] said first side against the internal surface structure of the helmet; and

a valve connected to said body for permitting said body to be inflated and deflated with air whereby said body when inflated to a desired pressure is adapted to be inserted into a helmet with the flat surface juxtaposed against the inside surface structure of the helmet.

2. (amended) The inflatable liner of claim 1 in which said valve is positioned on a valve cell that extends inwardly from said ring into an opening defined by the ring, said valve cell having a larger volume than the other cells and further being sealed about an aperture to minimize ballooning of the valve.

6. (amended) The protective helmet of claim 5 in which said body further [defining] defines a centrally disposed crown portion in the form of a ring of said cells and constrictions that is adapted to be positioned against and protect the top portion of the wearer's skull, a rear group of said cells and constrictions extending outward from said ring and adapted to be positioned against and protect the lower portion of the wearer's skull, a pair of side groups of said [cell] cells and constrictions extending outward from opposite sides of said ring and adapted to be positioned against and protect the side of the wearer's skull, and a front group of said cells and constrictions extending out from said ring and adapted to be positioned against and protect the top front portion of the wearer's skull, said body having a first side that is substantially flat thereby facilitating the positioning of [the] said first side against the internal surface structure of the helmet; and a valve connected to said body for permitting said body to be inflated and deflated with air whereby said body when inflated to a desired pressure is adapted to be inserted into a helmet with the flat surface juxtaposed against the inside surface structure of the helmet.

8. (amended) The protective helmet of claim [6] 7 in which said plurality of pads have portions of the surfaces thereof which are raised and said rear, front and side loops have

rounded surfaces [adapted thereby] collectively forming a co-extensive surface adapted to abut against the wearer's skull and forming spaces for the circulation of air.

a³ 9. (amended) A method for making a helmet with an inflatable and removable liner comprising the steps of:

forming a helmet shell with an internal surface adapted to fit on the skull of a wearer;

forming padding having a first predetermined configuration and periphery;

attaching said padding to said helmet adjacent said internal surface of said helmet shell; and

molding a [hollow] flexible and inflatable liner, said liner being molded as a unitary and seamless body into an essentially flat second configuration and periphery [having] in which said liner defines a plurality of cells separated by constrictions[, said liner having a second predetermined configuration and periphery that permits said liner to be molded essentially flat and thereafter folded and positioned]; and

manipulating and positioning said flexible and inflatable liner within said shell in frictional and abutting engagement with the periphery of said padding.

10. The method of claim 9 in which said liner is molded into a centrally disposed crown portion in the form of a ring of said cells and constrictions that is adapted to be positioned against and protect the top portion of the wearer's skull, a rear group of said cells and

cont. 3
constrictions extending [outward] out from said ring and adapted to be positioned against and protect the lower portion of [a] the wearer's skull, a pair of side groups of said [cell] cells and constrictions extending [outward] out from opposite sides of said ring and adapted to be positioned against and protect the [side] sides of the wearer's skull, and a front group of said cells and constrictions extending out from said ring and adapted to be positioned against and protect the top front portion of the wearer's skull, said [body] liner having a first [side] surface that is substantially flat, thereby facilitating the positioning of the first surface of said liner [said first side] against the internal surface [structure] of the helmet.

REMARKS:

Claims 1-10 are pending in this Application.

In the Office Action dated August 1, 2000, the Examiner objected to claims 1-4 and 6-8 due to informalities in these claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's catching of these errors. Each of the informalities has been remedied as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Furthermore, claim 9 was rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,566,137 issued to Gooding, and claim 10 was rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of these claims. In this Response, Claims 8-10 has been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter which is claimed in the